

NOTES ON THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON FOR NOVEMBER 15.

David's Trust in God.

(Psalm 23.)

Golden Text: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. (Psalm 23:1.)

The beautiful Shepherd Psalm, as the twenty-third Psalm is appropriately called, has been accredited to David as its author from earliest times. It reflects his experience as a shepherd, and embodies a picture of his religious character, which is supremely helpful and attractive. Though this Psalm mirrors David's shepherd life, we cannot say that it was composed during his shepherd days, for it expresses what must have been his feelings at many different periods in life.

Probably the best method which we can follow in dealing with this Psalm is to study it verse by verse, trying to gather from each successive verse the spiritual lesson that lies enfolded therein.

THE DIVINE SHEPHERD

The first clause of the Psalm is our Golden Text, and it is the keynote of the whole Psalm. David rejoices in the thought of the Lord as his shepherd, and we must remember that the meaning of the term shepherd conveyed much more to his mind than it does to any of us, who have never seen the wonderful fidelity shown by an Eastern shepherd to his flock—a fidelity which is only paralleled in our own land in the case of the Western shepherders, who sometime perish with their flocks in the vain endeavor to protect them from the fury of the fierce blizzards which sweep down upon the open prairies.

HEAVENLY LEADERSHIP.

Very beautiful is the picture presented to us in the second verse of the Psalm. Our divine shepherd leads us into green pastures and beside still waters; he guides us with unfailing certainty into the situation wherein our souls shall be blest and all needs supplied.

THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

David recognized that the ways of God are righteousness. Sadly did he fail at times, in his own life, to follow in the paths where the divine shepherd would fain have led him. Yet none knew better than he that the path appointed for the Lord's sheep is the path of righteousness.

THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH.

Though David lived before the blessed assurance of immortal life was brought to man through Jesus Christ, his trust in Jehovah, even in the presence of death, is sublime, and in the words of the fourth verse of the Psalm, he has uttered words of precious comfort for all them that mourn.

DAILY FOOD FOR DAILY NEEDS

With Jehovah as host, man is assured of plenteous provision for his necessities. Nay more, there is abundance and to spare, for those who wait upon the table of the Lord find that their cup runs over.

THE PROMISE OF THE FUTURE.

The Psalm concludes with an expression of complete confidence for all the future. Goodness and mercy are to follow through all the days to come, and an eternal dwelling-place is to be found in the house of the Lord.

JESUS OUR SHEPHERD

The application of our lesson should point us to Jesus the good shepherd, who has given his life for the sheep. He calls himself the good shepherd, they that love him are his sheep, and one of the most striking passages in the book of Revelation tells us that "the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them unto fountains of waters of life." (See Rev. 7:17; R. V.)

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